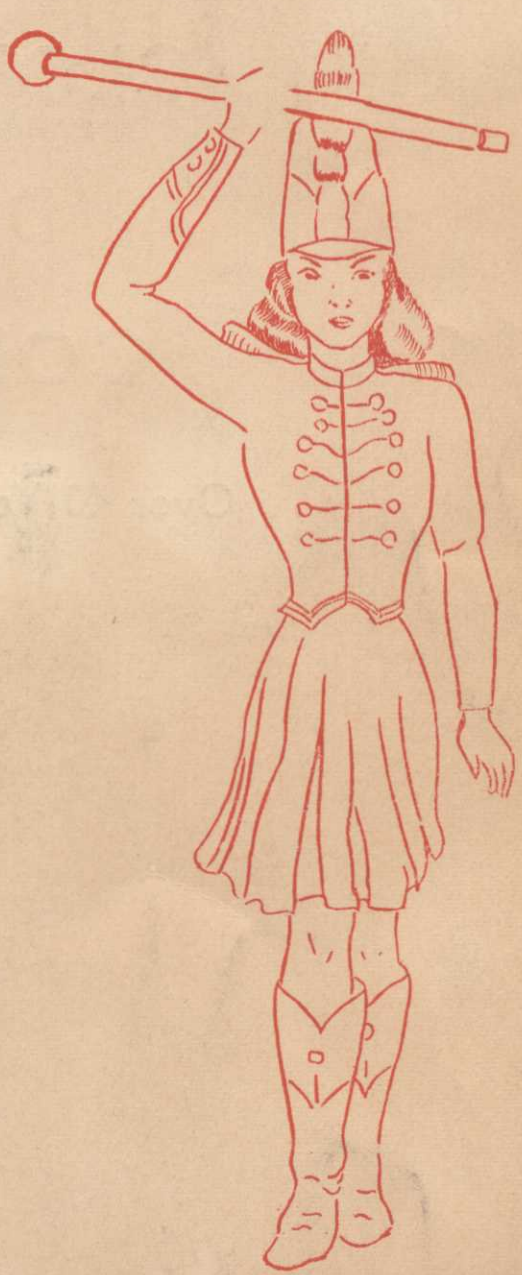

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Biography of E. V. Roesler

Mr. Elmo V. Roesler, one of the outstanding figures at Horace Mann High School, has been in Gary for twenty-four years. He was born in North Dakota and graduated from High School in Fessenden, North Dakota, in 1912.

In the Fall of that year he began his college career at Jamestown, North Dakota. He also attended the North Dakota Agricultural College where he pursued his Musical studies as well as majoring in Chemistry. In 1916 he came to Chicago to play in Kyrl's Band, which was under contract to play a series of Chautauqua Concerts for the Red Path Bureau.

After this engagement he did not return to college, but instead entered Bush Conservatory in Chicago, where he continued his studies until entering the Navy in the first World War. His service in the War was with Naval Bands in this country. After being released, he resumed his work at the Conservatory. In addition to his studies at the Conservatory he took up the profession of Musical Performer by playing in the Theatres in Chicago. This he continued to do for eleven years. In addition to his work in the Conservatory and Theatres he played as a member of the Philharmonic Orchestra for five seasons, Chicago Civic Symphony Orchestra for two seasons and was a member of John Philip Sousa's Band for an eleven month period. At this time his work at the Conservatory was rewarded by an appointment to the teaching staff of the Conservatory. This consisted of two series of lectures to the Degree Students of Instrumental Music.

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Biography of E. V. Roesler Continued

In 1924 Mr. Roesler was sent to Gary by the Conservatory to investigate a position for which one of its students was qualified. As a result of this interview Mr. Wirt, asked him to accept this position himself, an event which eventually brought Mr. Roesler to Gary as a member of this teaching staff.

While engaged in playing in bands and orchestras, Mr. Roesler also interested himself in the field of musical composition. In 1937 his first book on teaching of the clarinet was published. As an additional work he composed a second volume to this method. Mr. Roesler's Compositions for Orchestra have been played by the Gary Symphony Orchestra, the first to be performed being his "Even Song" for full orchestra. This was followed by a performance of his duet for flute and clarinet, "Scherzo" which was played by the composer and James Nelson, flutist, under the direction of Mr. Reiners. Other compositions from his pen include "Valse Indienne" for Orchestra, "Horace Mann Varsity March" and several other compositions in duet form, as well as solos and band compositions.

The band at Horace Mann has been under the continued direction of Mr. Roesler since 1925. The band was organized in that year and was taught in the evening twice each week. In 1930 the band was placed upon the daytime class schedule. Since that time it has continually grown through his efforts into one of the cities leading musical organizations.

In private life he is the father of two children,—one daughter, Wilma, born in 1923 and one son, Elmo, born in 1928. His wife, Thelma, has been a source of great help and inspiration in his profession. Mr. Roesler is also active in community music projects, such as the Gary Civic Symphony Orchestra of which he was President for two years; he has also taken part in Church Choir and Civic Programs of various kinds.

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Band History

"—Onward, ever, forget you,
Oh never, Oh Horace Mann
we're true—"

With these words still echoing in their ears, several hundred of the student body trudged slowly to their classes, and thus ended another of Horace Mann's rousing pep meetings. The auditorium being now almost wholly emptied, the Maroon and White clad figures from down in the front of the room began hastily gathering up their instruments, then, they too withdrew. Such were the members of the Horace Mann Band—1948. An organization of some 100 musicians and Drum Majorettes, taking active part in the affairs of the school. Their passing left the room in silence.

The quiet, darkened hall, seemed very much deserted, and in the later hours, as evening descended, strange things began taking place. A faint breeze stirred the heavy curtains at the window, and one could almost hear again the music that had gone before—then the stage curtains slowly parted, revealing a small group of boys—adjudged to be of about seventh or eighth grade level, clad in white trousers, red sweaters, and red and white beanie caps. These were the members of the first Horace Mann Band, playing the initial concert in 1925 in the East building auditorium. This was quite a thrill for most of them making their debut in the first concert of the band that was destined for greater things. These boys had been trained in what is now the West building Auditorium, and practiced in the small portable that is the present permanent band room. Under the direction of Mr. E. V. Roesler, they played after school.

(Continued on Page 11)

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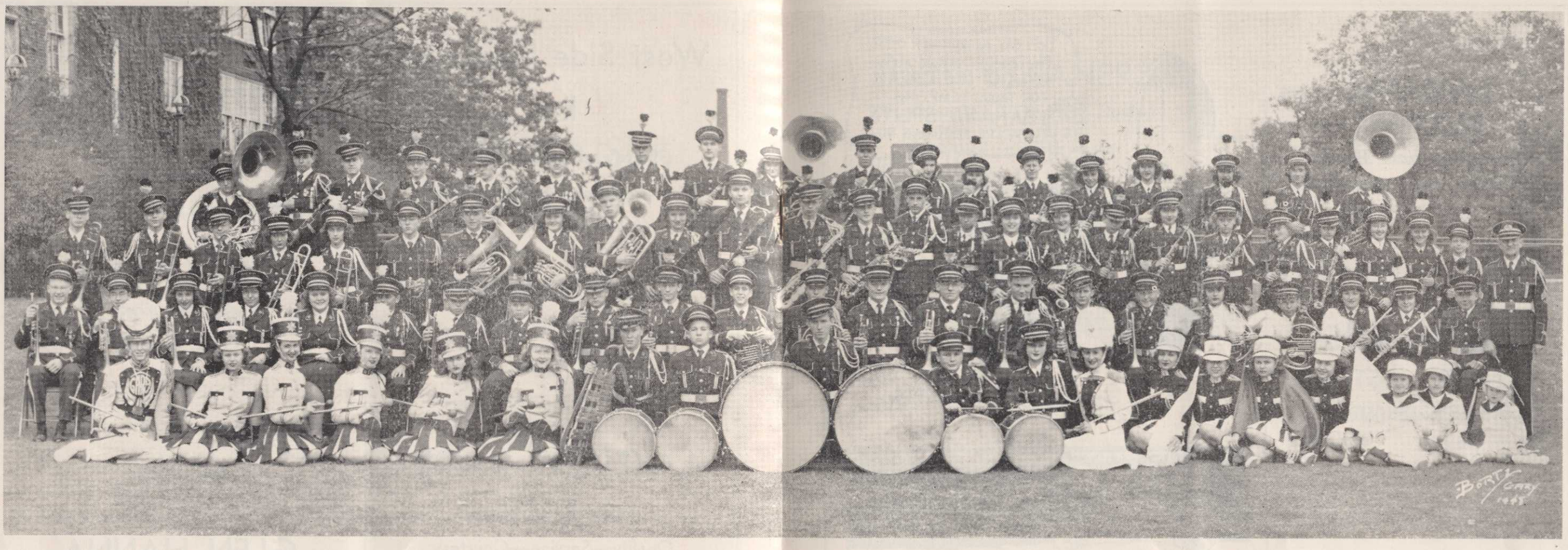

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BAND HISTORY—Continued

and evenings, to become the pioneers in the story of the Horace Mann Band.

Then, as quickly as it came in view—the scene changes. The band is now playing for the dedication of the cornerstone of the central building. The date was a chilly morning on November 8, 1926 and this program marked the first public performance of the "Horace Mann Loyalty."

Again the stage dims and the scene is a large ballroom. Huge letters spell out W-J-K-S in the background. This is Gay Mill in Miller, and the small, but growing band is making it's first radio appearance in 1928. This proved so successful, that we again see them in other broadcasts made later by W-I-N-D from the band room itself.

New uniforms were an added attraction in the Band Concert at Memorial Auditorium played on December 13, 1930. A large printed program with Band pictures was given as a souvenir to the audience at this concert. In the next few years, concerts are being played annually, and membership of the band has increased from a handful of players to approximately 80 enthusiastic musicians. By 1932 the band had a well established reputation and demands for its appearance were many. One outstanding performance was the pageant given by the women's Benefit Association in Hammond, Indiana, featuring the Horace Mann Band.

(Continued on Page 14)

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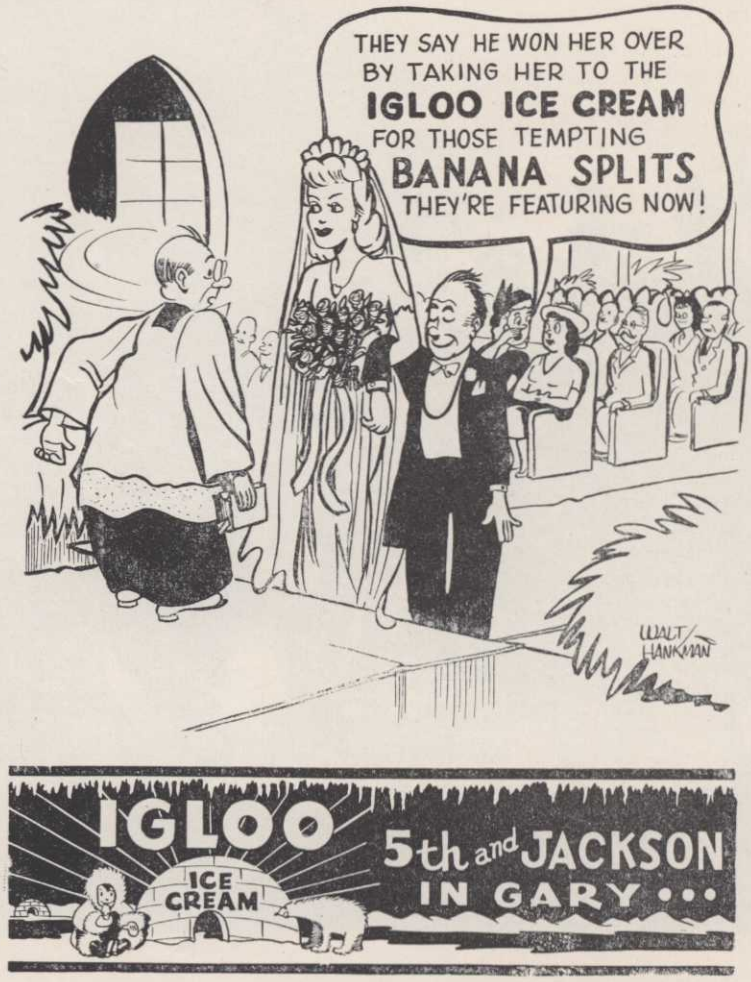

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BAND HISTORY—Continued

The next scenes are fascinating and take place at the World's Fair Exposition in Chicago.

The band was awarded a plaque for its its seven appearances at concerts in the "Court of the Hall of Science" and the "Hall of States," and "Sears Roebuck Building Roof Garden": also for it's special programs for the National Federation of Women's Music Clubs of America, and several other noteworthy groups. This same year the Horace Mann Band also played a concert at Riverview Park on Labor Day, September 4th. Yes, 1933 Was an Eventful one for the Horace Mann Band.

Horace Mann took third place at the Music Festival in Chicago, 1935. An ex-Mann student, Sydney Booth, was awarded honors in band at the University of Pennsylvania. A series of monthly broadcasts was played by the band for W-I-N-D throughout this same year.

In the interim between 1936 and 1941, the scenes shift quickly and with each concert, the band seems to be growing. Now it is Memorial Day, 1941, the first year of the American participation in the war. The annual parade is in progress—we see the bright cardinal and white uniforms, but something new has been annexed—eight high-stepping

Continued Next Page

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BAND HISTORY—Continued

young girls, in snappy majorette uniforms—this first Horace Mann Twirling Corps. Another step forward for the bandsmen.

Our late breeze begins to die—for a brief minute, all is dark once more in the great room.

Then, the curtains once again part. It is 1945 and the Horace Mann Band Boosters, comprised of parents of the band members is in view. This club has been growing too in the past few years and has gained full maturity over that time. Officers, this year are:

Mr. Herbert Mullan, President
Mrs. James W. Hauger, Vice President
Mrs. H. Emmett Call, Treasurer
Mrs. C. R. Smith, Secretary

They have provided pot-luck suppers, sponsored awards, and several band trips, to say nothing of the aid they had given the bandmaster, Mr. Roesler in the raising of money for band uniforms.

The room once more grows cool.

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The stage grows dark,—what is in store in the future, no one can foretell. But, as we leave the auditorium, and wonder into the halls, we are sure that such a group can not and will not fail to become one of the best organizations in Gary,—they'll point with pride when they say "That's the Horace Mann Band! !"

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